Poplar Hill Mansion is the oldest documented structure to remain in the City of Salisbury. Its location outside the city proper at that time aided significantly to its survival by escaping destruction during the ruinous town fires of 1860 and 1886. Estimations on the age of Poplar Hill have ranged between the late eighteenth century to the early nineteenth century. As it turns out, both arguments have some validity.

Construction of Poplar Hill was begun around 1795-96 by Major Levin Handy, who is identified in a 1795 deed for 357 acres of "Pemberton's Good Will" as "of Somerset County but formerly of Rhode Island." The house Major Handy financed on his newly acquired plantation was an ambitious structure that outdistanced most buildings in this region for its day in size and attention to refined detail. While architectural traditions distinctive to Rhode Island may have influenced his design decisions, a new house erected in nearby Snow Hill around 1792-93 most likely had an impact on Levin Handy's Salisbury residence. Now known as Chanceford, the bold gable-front brick house was the high-style residence of James Rownd Morris, Clerk of Worcester County Court prior to his death in the mid 1790s.

While the two houses bear distinct architectural differences, there are similar aspects that offer compelling evidence that the Morris house influenced, in part, the design of Poplar Hill. In particular, the pedimented gable ends of Poplar Hill repeat the same heirarchy of window placement established on the gable-front wall of Chanceford. At Poplar Hill, large twelve-over-twelve sash windows light the first and second floors, while the gable end pediments are pierced by two tiers of windows. The main attic space is lighted by large multi-pane sash windows, while an upper attic is distinguished by a round or bull's eye window. This same heirarchy of

window design was established at Chanceford several years before Poplar Hill was begun.

However, Levin Handy thought enough of James Rownd Morris's house only to emulate it in part since he designed the structure with a grand center passage and flanking parlors and dining room rather than employing the gable-front, transverse hall plan found in the Snow Hill house. The broad five-bay front of Poplar Hill, like Chanceford, follows a strict bilateral symmetry critical to the Federal style that was favored during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Levin Handy's architectural ambitions quite likely exceeded his ability to finance them. On September 15, 1803 a writ of fieri facias issued by the State of Maryland empowered Levin Pollitt, Sheriff of Worcester County, to sell Levin Handy's Salisbury plantation in order to satisfy outstanding debts. Shortly thereafter, Levin Handy died after contracting pleurisy. He suffereed for many years with stomach problems known as the gout.

At the time of his death, Levin Handy's house had not been completed. The unfinished nature of the house is doccumented by a short article in the *Salsibury Advertiser*, written in 1897, on the ocassion of Isabella Huston Humphreys' death. Isabella Humphreys was the daughter of Dr. John Huston, the next long-term owner of Poplar Hill. The 1897 newspaper article stated, "Mrs. Humphreys was the daughter of the late Dr. John Huston, who purchased in 1800 (actually 1805) Poplar Hill, then incomplete. Dr. Huston completed the property and made it the family home for over 50 years."

The incomplete nature of Levin Handy's house at the time of his death is documented also by the house itself. Hand-made wrought iron nails common to the eighteenth century are found in the roof framing and the interior is finished with a mixture of late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century woodwork. Some of the differences in woodwork are as subtle as slight

variations in the molding profile that frames the outside door and window openings contrasted with the molding profile that frames the interior doors. An ogee (S-curved) backband molding is found on the exterior window and door frames, whereas the interior doors and closets have what is known as a quirked ogee molding that was generally used in the early nineteenth century.

Normally, when a house was built the door and window moldings in the same room did not differ in the least.

To what degree the house was "incomplete" is difficult to determine, but the delicacy and finely carved nature of the interior woodwork suggests that much of it was executed during the ownership of John Huston, which stretched from his purchase in 1805 to his death in 1828. The high level of intricate Federal or neoclassical woodwork is unsurpassed for a house on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The first floor plan follows a traditional room disposition favored during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries with a broad center stair passage extending the full depth of the house. The passage is divided visually in two with a front entrance hall separated from the rear stairhall by an intricately carved segmental arch. On the east (right) side of the passage is a large rectangular space historically used for dining, while the west (left) half of the first floor is divided into two nearly equal sized rooms, probably a formal parlor in front and a private parlor or first floor chamber in back. Each of these rooms is finished in an elaborate fashion with individual interpretations of Federal design.

Following Dr. Huston's death in 1828, the property remained in family hands under the ownership of his wife, Sarah Huston, until the mid nineteenth century. During Dr. Huston's ownership the plantation, including 357 acres, comprised a large tract bounded on the west by Division Street and on the southeast by what was described in the early 1800s as a "new road"

which leads from the town of Salisbury towards Mitchell's Bridge." Beginning in the late 1840s and early 1850s, under Sarah Huston's direction, Poplar Hill was partially subdivided. New houses, designed in late Federal and Greek Revival taste, started to appear along major roads. The partitioning or subdivision of the Poplar Hill plantation continued at a moderate rate during the years leading up to the Civil War, but by the late 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s a building boom was underway in Salisbury's first large suburb aptly labeled "Newtown." Construction and additional subdivision in Newtown did not subside until the second quarter of the twentieth century. In more recent times, Poplar Hill was the residence George W. D. Waller, who occupied the house between 1897 and World War II. During the 1950s the property was owned by Ward A. and Dorothy Garber. Most recently the property has been owned and maintained by the City of Salisbury as a house museum, and it is open on by appointment.

### MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME:F	oplar Hil	l Mansion	
MHT INVENTORY NUMBER	:WI-8		
MARYLAND COMPREHENS	SIVE PLAN I	DATA	
1. Historic Period Theme(s):	Architect	ture	**
2. Geographic Orientation:	Eastern S	Shore	
3. Chronological/Development	Period(s):	Rural Agrarian 1680-1815	Intensification
4. Resource Type(s):	Single fa	amily dwelling	

# MARYLAND INVENTORY OF Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WI-8

Magi No.

DOE \_yes \_no

1. Nam	<b>e</b> (indicate pre	eferred name)		
historic				
and/or common	Poplar Hill	Mansion		
2. Loca	tion			
street & number	117 Elizabet	th Street	-	not for publication
city, town	Salisbury	vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Maryland	county	Wicomico	
3. Class	sification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership  X public private both  Public Acquisition in process being considered x not applicable	Status  X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  X yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	X museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	'ty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name	City of Sali	sbury		
street & number			telephone n	10.:
city, town	Salisbury	state	and zip code Md	21801
5. Loca	tion of Lega	al Description	on	
courthouse, regist	try of deeds, etc. Wic	comico County Cl	erk of Court	liber
street & number	Wicomico Cou	nty Courthouse		folio
city, town	Salisbury		state	
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	reys
title	Maryland Inv	entory of Histo	ric Properties	
date	1970		federalX sta	te county local
∌pository for sur	vey records Maryl	and Historical	Trust	
city, town	Crownsville		state	MD 21032

To 30 A.

Survey No. WI-8

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Poplar Hill Mansion is located at 117 Elizabeth Street in the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay, center hall frame house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Begun around 1795-96 and finished over the course of the following ten years, the two-story, center hall frame dwelling is supported on a high English bond brick foundation with an excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with a uniform layer of beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with slate. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing raised on a high brick foundation.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The six-panel front door is framed by a neoclassical surround incorporating fluted pilasters that rise to pediment which surrounds an arched fanlight of radiating web-patterned muntins. The cornice of the pediment is enriched with small modillion blocks and as well as bed and crown moldings. The flanking windows are framed by narrow ovolo backband surrounds and each window features a bull-nose sill. The windows have louvered shutters to each side. The second floor is highlighted by a center Palladian or Venetian window. Characteristically divided into three sections, the center panel is a round headed window opening filled with a multi-paned upper sash of delicately curved muntins. The flanking panels, framed by fluted pilasters and trimmed with delicate modillion block cornices, are filled with narrow four-over-four sash windows. The adjacent bays are marked by twelve-over-twelve sash windows hung with louvered shutters. Each of the window openings has a bull-nosed window sill. Trimming the base of the roof is a modillion block cornice. Piercing the roofline are a pair of narrow brick chimney stacks topped with corbeled caps.

The east and west gable ends are defined by large twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the first and second floors, and each window opening is framed by an ovolo backband surround and a bull-nosed window sill. Louvered shutters hang on each window opening. The gable ends are enclosed within a pediment highlighted by an elaborately executed modillion block cornice. The gable end is sheathed with beaded weatherboards, and the wall is pierced by two tiers of windows. The bottom tier, which lights the main attic, features twelve-over-twelve sash windows and the upper tier boasts an elaborate round or bulls-eye window.

The north (rear) wall is partially covered by the single-story gable roofed kitchen wing that is extended by a shed roofed section to the east. Centered on the back wall is a rear door opening defined by a flush beaded edge panel door and an ovolo molded surround. Twelve-over-twelve sash windows mark the adjacent bays. Centered on the second floor is another Venetian window that repeats the same form as the front window.

(Continued)

1400 1500 1600 X1700	2–1499 archeology-historic 2–1599 agriculture 2–1699 architecture 2–1799 art 2–1899 commerce	heck and justify below  community planning landscape archited law conservation literature economics military engineering music exploration/settlement philosophy industry politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarlan theater
Specific	: dates	Builder/Architect	
check:	and/or	BXCD ABCDEFG	

Survey No.

WI-8

Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Level of Significance: national state X local

Poplar Hill Mansion is the oldest documented structure to remain in the City of Salisbury. Its location outside the city proper aided significantly in its survival by escaping destruction during the ruinous town fires of 1860 and 1886. Estimations on the age of Poplar Hill have ranged between the late 18th century to the early 19th century. As it turns out, both arguments have validity. Construction of Poplar Hill was begun around 1795-96 by Major Levin Handy, who is identified in a 1795 deed for 357 acres of "Pemberton's Good Will" as "of Somerset County but formerly of Rhode Island." The house Major Handy financed on his newly acquired plantation was an ambitious structure that outdistanced most buildings of its day in size and attention to refined detail. While architectural traditions distinctive to Rhode Island may have influenced his design decisions, a new house erected in nearby Snow Hill around 1792-93 more than likely had an impact on Levin Handy's Salisbury residence. Now known as Chanceford, the bold gable-front brick house was the high-style residence of James Rownd Morris, Clerk of Worcester County Court prior to his death in the mid 1790s. Following James Rownd Morris's death, his property was sold to Colonel Levin Handy (1754-1799), a second cousin of Major Handy's. Among friends, Major Handy was known as "Rhode Island Levin" in an effort to distinguish himself from this Eastern Shore relative of the same name. Before his death in 1799, Colonel Levin Handy served as the Clerk of Worcester County Court. It is without doubt that Major Handy visited Snow Hill, the county seat for the land on the east side of Salisbury, and knew of his second cousin's high-style residence.

While the two houses bear distinct architectural differences, there are similar aspects that offer compelling evidence that the Morris house influenced, in part, the design of Poplar Hill. In particular, the pedimented gable ends of Poplar Hill repeat the same hierarchy of window placement established on the gable-front wall of Chanceford. At Poplar Hill, large twelve-over-twelve sash windows light the first and second floors, while the gable end pediments are pierced by two tiers of windows. The main attic space is lighted by large multi-pane sash windows, while an upper attic is distinguished by a round or bull's eye window. The same fenestration pattern was established at Chanceford several years before Poplar Hill was begun.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Worcester County Land Record, R/68, 16 November 1795.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey	No.	WI-8
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	ograp	hical Data			
Acreage of non Quadrangle nau UTM Reference	me	complete UTM refer	ences	Quadrangle sca	ale
AZone East	ting	Northing	B Zone E	asting Nor	thing
C			D		
Verbal bound	ary descripti	on and justification			
List all states	and countie	es for properties over	apping state or coun	ty boundaries	
List all states	s and countie	es for properties overl code	apping state or coun	ty boundaries	code
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438 MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

7.1 DESCRIPTION
Poplar Hill Mansion, WI-8
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

The interior follows a center passage/double-pile plan. The center passage is divided visually in two sections with a front entrance hall separated from the rear stairhall by a segmental arched opening. The inside surface of the front door opening is trimmed by a round arched, ogee-curved backband surround. The center passage, like all of the first floor rooms, is finished in a high order with elaborate baseboard, chair rail, and cornice moldings. The interior door surrounds differ from the exterior window surrounds with a quirked ogee backband. The centrally positioned segmental arched opening is highly decorated with intricately carved moldings. Fluted pilasters rise from molded bases, and the capitals have delicately reeded friezes and intricate crown moldings. The soffit of the arch is finished with a flat panel with a linenfold carved keyblock in the center. A row of beading is centered in the keyblock. The perimeter of the room is finished with a molded baseboard, carved chair rail and cornice moldings. The cornice has a guilloche bed mold.

The staircase is intricately finished as well with ramped handrails and half rails embedded in the adjacent plaster wall. The stringer is embellished with a delicate Federal scroll and comma shaped incised cutout. Three slender stick baluster support the handrail.

The three first floor rooms are finished on a high level with intricately carved mantels, chair rail and cornice moldings. The front parlor is one of the most elaborate first floor spaces. Fluted pilasters flank the firebox and a five-part frieze is topped by a molded and broken mantel shelf. There are rows of intricately executed gougework that stretch across the mantel. Directly adjacent (right) of the mantel is a six-panel door framed by a Federal surround. The cornice is elaborately finished with bold vertical and grill work in the form of a classical frieze.

The other rooms, the dining room on the east of the passage and a rear parlor or first floor chamber in back, are finished in an high fashion with other variations of Federal mantel and gougework patterns that detail the chair rail and cornices. Located behind the dining room is a small rear passage that contains a second staircase, enclosed within a beaded board partition. The rear staircase provides direct access to the largest chamber or perhaps a second floor drawing room.

The attic is one large space with stout rafter stabilized by half dovetail lapped joints secured with wrought nails. There are wrought nails used liberally throughout the attic framing. A second attic is lighted by the round windows in the end of each gable. The flooring has been removed for the most part from this section.

### 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE Poplar Hill Mansion, WI-8 Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

However, Major Handy thought enough of James Rownd Morris's house only to emulate it in part. In contrast to Chanceford, Poplar Hill was designed with a grand center passage and flanking parlors and dining room rather than employing the gable-front, transverse hall plan found in the Snow Hill house. The broad five-bay front of Poplar Hill, like Chanceford, follows a strict bilateral symmetry critical to the Federal style that was favored during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Levin Handy's architectural ambitions quite likely exceeded his ability to finance them. On September 15, 1803 a writ of fieri facias issued by the State of Maryland empowered Levin Pollitt, Sheriff of Worcester County, to sell Levin Handy's Salisbury plantation in order to satisfy outstanding debts.<sup>2</sup> Shortly thereafter, Levin Handy died after contracting pleurisy. He suffered for many years with stomach problems known as the gout.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of his death, Levin Handy's house had not been completed. The unfinished nature of the house is documented by a short article in the Salisbury Advertiser, written in 1897, on the occasion of Isabella Huston Humphreys' death. Isabella Humphreys was the daughter of Dr. John Huston, the next long-term owner of Poplar Hill. The 1897 newspaper article stated, "Mrs. Humphreys was the daughter of the late Dr. John Huston, who purchased in 1800 (actually 1805) Poplar Hill, then incomplete. Dr. Huston completed the property and made it the family home for over 50 years."

The incomplete nature of Levin Handy's house at the time of his death is documented also by the house itself. Hand-made wrought iron nails common to the 18th century are found in the roof framing and the interior is finished with a mixture of late 18th and early 19th century woodwork. Some of the differences in woodwork are as subtle as slight variations in the molding profile that frames the outside door and window openings contrasted with the molding profile that frames the interior doors. An ogee (S-curved) backband molding is found on the exterior window and door frames, whereas the interior doors and closets have what is known as a quirked ogee molding that was generally used in the early 19th century. Normally when a house was built the door and window moldings in the same room did not differ in the least.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Worcester County Land Record, W/365, 27 July 1804.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Isaac W. K. Handy, Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred, William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor: Michigan, 1992, p. 96-97.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Salisbury Advertiser, 3 July 1897.

8.2 SIGNIFICANCE
Poplar Hill Mansion
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

depth of the house. The passage is divided visually in two with a front entrance hall separated from the rear stairhall by an intricately carved segmental arch. On the east (right) side of the passage is a large rectangular space historically used for dining, while the west (left) half of the first floor is divided into two nearly equal sized rooms, probably a formal parlor in front and a private parlor or first floor chamber in back. Each of these rooms is finished in an elaborate fashion with individual interpretations of Federal design.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Worcester County Land Record, X/323, 27 July 1805.

WI-8 Poplar Hill Mansion 117 Elizabeth Street Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Wicomico County Land Record 553/281

Virginia T. Owens

to

12/30/1962

Dorothy S. Garber

approximately 148.59 feet along street and 244 feet deep

Wicomico County Land Record JWTS 309/558

Fred P. Adkins

to

4/18/1949

Ward A. Garber and Dorothy his wife

Wicomico County Land Record JWTS 301/305

Salisbury Scottish Rite Holding Corporation

to

7/8/1948

Fred P. Adkins

Lot #2 of Poplar Hill laid out in 1897

Wicomico County Land Record

JWTS 271/417

Caroline C. Waller, widow and children of

George W. D. Waller

to

8/1/1945

Salisbury Scottish Rite Holding Corporation

Deed of Partition Wicomico County Land Record JTT 21/315

Heirs of George Waller (Jonathan and wife, James and and wife, and George W. D. Waller and R. Lee and wife

to

11/8/1897

George W. D. Waller

Lot No. 2 of Poplar Hill

Wicomico County Land Record SPT 4/485

Samuel A. Graham, trustee appointed by the court to take the place of the deceased Huston Humphreys,

trustee of Elizabeth Robertson

to

4/18/1882

George Waller

Chancery Record

SPT 3/86

Elizabeth W. Robertson

to

12/12/1877

Huston Humphreys, trustee

tract of land lying in Salisbury called "Poplar Hill"

where she now dwells

Plat included Lot No. 2 sold to George Waller for \$1,820.

Worcester Land Record

JAP 1/327

William W. Handy & Sally his wife

to

4/18/1857

Elizabeth W. Robertson

\$3,500 "Pemberton's Good Will" 25 ½ acres

being the same land which the said William purchased of the commissioners to sell the real estate of Mrs. Sarah Huston late of Worcester County...together with the Mansion house and all other buildings and appurtenances

Worcester Land Record

X/323

Peter Dashiell

to

7/27/1805

John Huston

L 1000 "Pemberton's Good Will"

Worcester Land Record

W/643

Nelly Handy

to

1/12/1805

Peter Dashiell

\$300 "Pemberton's Good Will"

all that part of said tract of said land lying to the southeast of the county road which divides the County of Somerset from that of the County of Worcester and bounded on the southeast by a new road which leads from the town of Salisbury towards Mitchell's Bridge on toward the plantation now owned by George Parsons together with all and singular the buildings, improvments, woods, ways, etc.

Worcester Land Record

W/365

Levin Pollitt, Esq. Sheriff of Worcester County

to

7/27/1804

Peter Dashiell

Witnesseth whereas on the 9/15/1803 a certain writ of the State of Maryland of Fieri Facias did issue forth out of the general court for the Eastern Shore to said Sheriff of

Worcester County

Judgement of the same Court recovered against a certain Levin Handy late of Worcester County Gentleman as well the sum of \$762.99 and further the sum of L150 as the quantity of six hundred and ninety-nine pounds of

Tobacco

Worcester Land Record

R/68

John Winder of Northampton County

ίO

11/16/1795

Levin Handy, late of the State of Rhode Island but now

in the county of Somerset

L 131.6.0 "Pemberton's Good Will" 357 acres

Worcester Land Record

Q/89

James Round Morris and Leah Morris, Levin Handy and

Nancy Handy, Ephraim Wilson and June Wilson

to

2/13/1795

Levin Handy of Somerset but formerly of Rhode Island

L5 "Pemberton's Good Will"

all that part of a tract of land called 'Pemberton's Good Will' that by running the lines of the resurvey thereof.... lies to the eastward of the road that leads from Salisbury

to Broad Creek

Deceased Names	Will Proved	Executor or Adm.
John D. Huston	27 April 1827	<u>Names</u> Sarah Huston
Date of Bonds	Suritier Names	Inventory Filed
Feb. 23, 1828	Sarah Huston	17 May 1828

Wm. H. Hondy

### Isabelle Dashiell

	ISADCIIC	Desilett	
Sales	Desparate Debts	Desparate Debts	Acc'ts Processed
Black	17 May 1828	17 Oct. 1829	17 Oct. 1829
	Inventory Fel	b. 26, 1828	
1 Dozen Winsor Cha	airs		18.00
1 Ditto Bar Yellow	Ditto		10.00
Northumberland Dir	ning Tables		30.00
1 Pr. Gilt looking	Glasses		20.00
14 Pictures			10.0Q
Mohogany Case & Bo	ottles		6.00
3 Glass Candlestic	ks		4.00
2 Ditto Lamps	•		1.1.00
1 Pair Large Brass	Andirons		8.00
Shovel & Tongs			2.00
2 Small Neo Chairs	ı		.75
Large Kiservminste	er Carpet		45.00
Small Ditto	Ditto		15.00
Domestic	Ditto		12.00
5 Flauer Pots & Di	shes		1.50
Sideboard			10.00
Mahogany Dining Ta	ble		8.00
Ditto Ditto D	itto		6.00
Desk			10.00

Mahogany Table (injured)	1.00
Walnut Stand	.75
6 Winsor Chairs Black X Arms	3.50
12 Green Ditto	5.00
1 Pine Table	1.00
Knife Box	.50
9 Knives & Forks Black	.75
3/4 Doz. & 4 Forks Ultute	1.00
6 Pictures	1.50
5 Queen Ulano Dishes	1.25
Ditto Plates	.30
20 Ditto Tea & Soup Ditto	.60
2 Salad Dishes	.25
1 Tureure & Salad Stand	.40
6 Cake Plates	.75
2 Pickle Dishes	.10
13 Silver Tea Spoons	7.25
6 Silver Ladle Spoons	12.00
1 Silver Ladle	10.00
1 Cream Cup	5.00
1 Small Silver Ladle	1.50
Sugar Tongs	.75
Liverpool -Goffee Pot	1.00
Dozen China Cups & Saucers	.75
27 China Cups & Saucers	2.00
4 Waiters	3.00
11 Crystal Glasses	2.00
Costars	1.00
4 Tumblers	.12

12 Cut Wine Glasses	2.00
Large Toddy Glass	
2 Cornmore Decanters	1.00
Glass sugar dish & Goblette	.50
Glass Tea Canister	.75
2 Glass Pitchers	.12
2 China Cups	2.00
4 Glass & 1 China Salt Set	1.00
Lott Bottles & Brandy	2.00
Brass andirons, shovels & tongs	1.50
4 Brass candlesticks & snuffers	5.00
5 Liverpool pitchers	2.00 1.00
3 Stone Pitchers	
Bellous	.50
4 China Cake Plates	.25
16 Liverpool Dishes	.40 6.50
53 Ditto Plates	5.00
2 Ditto Salad Dishes	1.50
1 Sauce dish	.25
6 Liverpool bowls	1.00
2 China Bowls	2.00
3 Tea Pots	.50
Set of China	15.00
2 Cream Pots	.25
1 China Canister	.30
1½ Doz. Cup Plates	.60
Carpet & Heath	5.00
Double Mirror	.25
Lott Old Brasses	.50
12 Old Flag Chairs	1.50

1 Desk	5.00
Looking Glass	2.00
Clock	10.00
Brass Andirons Shovels and Tongs	3.00
Shaving Apparatus	1.00
Carpet & Rug	1.50
4 Hair Brushes	1.25
Lott Sundries	.30
2 Maps	2.00
Medicine, Furniture & Equipment	20.00
Sheep Shears & Nippers	25.00
12 Walking Cains	1.00
Writing Desk	1.00
Spy Glass injured	2.00
14½ pair sheets	40.00
4 pair ? Counterpanes	30.00
6 Pair Blankets	15.00
2 Pair White Merseilles Quilts	16.00
6 Common Quilts	12.00
3 Yards Bathing Cloth	1.00
2 Quilts ?	3.00
2 Stuff Quilts	2.00
40 Yards Fringe	5.00
9 Table Cloths	13.50
14 Towels & 3 Tea Cloths	3.70
15 Pillow Cases	3.50
2 Suits Cotton Bed Curtains	6.00

l Suit Window Curtains	10.00
3 Trunks & 1 Chest	4.00
3 Straw Baskets	.20
Sattin Dressing Box	
Sattin Vest Pattern	
	1.25
3 Pictures	.40
Looking Glass	5.00
2 Pitchers Bowls & Wash Stand	3.00
Horse Whip	.15
Dressing Glass	1.00
2 Toylette Tables	2.00
Bureau	1.50
Small Looking Glass & Table	.75
Pair Andirons	.50
Books in Library	20.00
Muslin Luster	.50
Bed 15 cts. No. 1 59 ler 20 cts. No. 2 74 ler 15 cts. No. 3 65 ler 15 cts. No. 4 56 ler 18 cts. No. 5 66 ler 15 cts. No. 6 54 ler 15 cts. No. 7 50 ler	8.85 14.80 9.75 8.40 11.88 8.10 7.50
Bedstead Mat & Bord	
No. 1 No. 2 No. 3 No. 4— No. 5 No. 6 No. 7	3.00 1.50 2.00 5.00 2.00 2.00

Waterman C. auth Co.	
Mattrass & cott frame	6.00
2 Chair cushions	.50
Loom Warping bars & box	3.00
Saddle & bridle	2.50
2 Old Chests	.50
4 Weavers, slays & Cotton Cards	1.50
Swiftr	.25
2 pair winding blades	.50
Cut reels	1.00
2 Linnen Wheels	3.00
Wooden Wheels	.25
Bed chair	1.00
Lott old chairs	.50
5 Chamber Pots	1.50
Easey stool	1.00
Spun wollen yarns	4.00
Side Saddle	1.00
Dried Fruit	2.00
2 Hickles	.50
Old Carriage Harness	.50
Wearing Apparels	20.00
Earthen Jars	2.00
Waffle Irons Lott Andirons Steelyarn	1.50 5.00 1.50
Brass Kettle & Refrigerator	5.00
Denijohn & 3 storie rugs	2.00
Tin Kitchen	1.50
Lott tin	.50
Coffee Mill	.50
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Brandy & Barrel	8.00
Barrells of contents	1.00
Lott Pork (injured)	4.00
Buter & Reg.	.50
Hogs lard	9.00
Candles & Tallow	.80
7 old casks	1.00
Soap	2.50
Scales & Weights	1.00
Meal Ghrist & Sifters	1.00
6 tow bags	.73
Taylons Sheers & ? Stand	.30
Drawers	.25
Table old barrels	.50
Irish Potatoes	1.50
Salt Barrels	1.00
Grain Chest	1.00
Dye Tuþ	.25
Pine Table	.25
Lott Wooden Ware	3.50
Half bushel measure	.50
3 Tables	3.00
Pewter & Tin Ware	1.50
3 ? Irons	.75
Flesh form & Spit	.40
Skillet & Stand	. 25
Hard ware	20.00
Morter & Mowls	1.00
Iron andirons	.75
Iron spoons	.12

Lott old Iron	5 <b>.00</b>
Cross cut saw	4.00
Wheat sive	1.00
Rye & Cask	. 2.00
Wheat & Barrels	4.00
Grain Chest	1.00
Orchard grass	.25
3 Scythes & Cradles	5.00
Ploughs	5.00
4 Harrous	4.00
2 Cultivators & Corn Covert	1.50
Lott old ploughs	.50
3 pr. Iron + races harvester	1.50
4 muzles & bolts	.60
Sulkey Wheels	2.00
5 Lamb skins	.60
Patent cutting box	10.00
Rye straw	4.00
Yoke old steers	15.00
Ditto young Ditto	20.00
4 caves	26.00
1 heifer & calf	6.00
Coobbett boar	5.00
2 saws & six pigs	10.00
3 thogs	9.00
14 Shoats	18.00
Dark brown horse 13 yrs. old	30.00
Dark bay horse 13 ditto	60.00
Light brown horse 8 ditto	60.00
14 ewes & lambs	18.00

Gig & Harness	175 <b>.00</b>
Sulky & Harness	75 <b>.00</b>
Horse cart	6.00
old ( ? ) cart	2.00
? cart & yokes	10.00
5 grubbing hoes	2.00
5 wheeling ditto	1.25
4 spades & 2 pitch forks	2.00
2 broad axes	4.50
2 old axes	.50
2 iron wedges	.75
2 wodden rakes	.25
wheat ?	5.00
Corn cradles	.50
Lott old iron	.25
4 baskets	.40
Grind stone	1.00
642 bushels corn at 37	240.75
Chicken Coop	1.50
20 stacks fodder	60.00
6 bushels wheat grain	20.00
2 ditto rye ditto	6.00
1400 lbs bacon	110.00
Negro Levin aged 34 yrs	175.00
Sam 23 yrs	250.00
Noah 18 yrs	200.00
John 14	5.00
Paul 60	1.00
Shadrock 50	100.00
Anthony 9	125.00

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Negro Perry aged	12 yrs	150.00
Paul	4 yrs	50.00
Alfred	1 yr .	15.00
Penny & chi	ld 21 yrs	. 200.00
Silvy	40 yrs	
Milly	40 yrs	20.00
Maria	14 yrs	40.00
Roselta	5 yrs	150.00
Laurod (?)	6 yrs	50.00
	6 yrs	50.00
Cash on hand	- <b>, -</b> -	50.00
2 Iron rakes		110.00
1 Hammer and screw	3	.75
and sciew	ariver	.62\frac{1}{2}
		\$3,621.44

Mrs. Russell had five children. Of these two only are deceased: Mary, who died in 1796 at ten years of age, and Thomas Handy at the age of twenty-eight. Ann Brown [another daughter] has been twice married and still lives, a widow, in North Providence, Rhode Island. Charles Handy and William Henry are retired merchants in the city of New York.

# 1.9.7.7. Major Levin Handy (1764–1804) Merchant: Salisbury, Somerset Co., Md.

NAME	CHILDREN <u>BORN</u>	DIED
1. Ann Russell 2. Joseph	1st Marriage Apr. 29, 1785	May 3, 1832 Aug. 17, 1787
3. Maria 4. Ellen 5. Jane	2nd Marriage Oct. 28, 1795 Sept. 23, 1798 Dec. 4, 1800	Aug. 15, 1847 Apr. 8, 1865

Major Levin Handy was the seventh child in a family of thirteen. He was the son of Capt. Charles Handy of Newport, Rhode Island, by his first wife, Ann Brown, who was herself also the seventh child of her parents, John and Jane (Lucas) Brown of that city. The date of his birth as recorded by his father in the old family Bible is November 30, 1764. It is also there stated that he was baptized December 24, 1764. He was born and educated in Newport, and remained there until after his marriage in 1784, when he migrated to Salisbury on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and located there as a merchant. He was a man of intelligence, of fine business talents, and of social and agreeable manners. He blended, also, a cheerful disposition with great decision of character, and though much beloved by children and servants, neither dared nor wished to disobey him.

Until the failure of his health, Maj. Handy attended perseveringly to business. After this, he purchased a farm in the vicinity of Salisbury and erected thereupon a stately and commodious mansion, which for many years was one of the chief ornaments of the neighborhood. On May 18, 1797, he petitioned the "Honorable Judges of Worcester Court that the road leading from the town of Salisbury to Mitchell's Bridge, and running through the cultivated and uncultivated parts of his plantation may be turned." This property was subsequently bought by Dr. Houston and is the same on which that gentleman lived and died.

For several years before his death, he was a great sufferer from a gouty affliction of the stomach. At times his pains were exceedingly violent and ac-

ANNAYS AND MEMORIAIS IN THE HANDYS
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companied with spasms. In his last illness he was unable to occupy a recumbent position, until at length he was prostrated by an attack of pleurisy of which he died in the winter of 1804.

The fall before Maj. Handy's decease, he was urgently solicited by numerous friends to permit his name to come before the people as a candidate for the Assembly. He was prevailed upon to consent, and the election took place whilst he was at home sick and wholly unable to prosecute the customary routine of electioneering. After the election he endeavored to make his way to Annapolis by land, but growing worse, he succeeded only in getting as far as Easton, in Talbot County, where he was obliged to stop and send for his wife. They returned to Salisbury and after a long illness he died at home, surrounded by friends, having never occupied the seat to which he had been called. His loss was greatly deplored in the community, especially by the Masonic fraternity of which he was an ardent member, and by the poor to whom he had been a constant friend. He had long been a communicant in the Episcopal Church and was regarded as a consistent and devout Christian. It is well remembered that he strove to bring up his children in the fear and love of God.

In person, Maj. Handy measured about five feet six or seven inches. His hair was light and his eyes a bright blue. He was remarkable for his genteel address and for the style and texture of his apparel. He always wore short clothes with knee and shoe buckles, according to the fashion of the day. In a miniature painting lately in possession of Mrs. McDaniel, and much defaced, he is represented with brown silk coat, ruffled shirt, and white cravat.

Maj. Handy's first wife was Ann Russell of Providence, Rhode Island, to whom he was married about the year 1784. This lady was a daughter of Joseph Russell, brother to Maj. Thomas Russell, father of Charles Handy Russell, Esq., of New York City. He subsequently married Nelly Hitch, daughter of Joshua Hitch, and aunt to the late Dr. William Hitch of Baltimore. This lady was also first cousin to Polly Hitch, the second wife of Col. Levin Handy of the "Ferry." The fruits of the two marriages were four daughters and one son, viz: Ann Russell, a daughter by his first wife, became Mrs. Simpson, and is now deceased. Maria (Mrs. Merriweather), the oldest of the three daughters by his second wife, died in 1847. Nelly and Jane (Mrs. McDaniel and Mrs. Austin) still survive, the first residing in Salisbury and the latter in Georgetown, D.C.

Among his friends, Maj. Handy was familiarly called "Rhode Island Levin" to distinguish him from Col. Levin Handy of the Ferry. He held a commission from the governor as an officer of the militia, hence the military title. One of the streets in Newport still bears his name, "Levin Street," having been so named nearly a century ago by his father, Capt. Charles Handy, who owned a large property in that vicinity.

# 2300082304

Form 10-300 (July 1559)

UNITED STATES DEFINITION OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL FARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - HOMINATION FORM

Maryland

WI-8

### Wicomico FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

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Poplar Hill Mansion is the only early building with architectural merit to survive the devastating fires which swept throughout the city in 1860 and again in 1886. Its architectural features were outstanding for Salisbury in the early periods of the city and are now all that remains — the only building of its kind in the city.

Poplar Hill Mansion is a frame, double-pile structure, built on a high brick basement. Its exterior walls are covered with pine clapboards painted white with 6" exposure to the weather and a 3/8" bead on each board.

The south facade consists of a five-bay surface with the central unit of the first story carrying the entrance door with fanlight and pediment (a recent replacement), and the second story having a Palladian-style window with fluted pilasters and an architrave above each side window of the Palladian. The trim of which is similar to the main cornice. All other windows have 12/12 sash louvered shutters. The main cornice consists of a course of dentils, a quarter-round mold, a course of shaped modillions, a facia and a large double-ogee-crown molding.

Both gables form pediments and have a pair of windows at attic level and a bulls-eye window at the apex of the pediment. The walls beneath the pediments vary as to window fenestration, with symmetrical spacing on the west and assymetrical arrangement on the east. The central chimneys are assymetrical, the east chimney standing north of the ridge of the roof, the west centered on the ridge.

The north facade is only three bays long and has a Palladian-style window at the level of the interior stair landing in the center of the wall. Beneath the north window is the north door and a porch with Chinese trellis balustrade. On the east side of the north facade is a small one-story kitchen wing which is reputed to replace a colonade and detached kitchen.

The floor plan consists of a central stairhall, divided by an elliptical arch, and two rooms on either side of the hall. The west rooms, parlor and dining room, are nearly equal in size, being approximately sixteen feet, six inches by fifteen feet, six inches. The drawing room on the east side

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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#### Poplar Hill Mansion

**‡7** DESCRIPTION continued

is approximately eighteen feet wide by twenty-six feet six inches long. The northeast room is only eight feet three inches wide and eighteen feet long. It does not have a fire-place, but does contain an auxiliary staircase to the second story.

Beneath the chairrail in the hall, is a wainscot of two horizontal boards; high above is wallpaper depicting a land-scape scene. The chairrail consists of a molded cap above a facia divided into equal areas of flutes and blocks. A course of carved interlocking strapework circles, curiously missing on the north side of the arch, are the chief ornament of the interior cornice. Fluted pilasters support the elliptical arch, which has cove and rope moldings. The underside of the arch is composed of recessed panels.

The staircase is located North of the arch. Its soffit is paneled and the ogee-shaped step-ends have pierce-work consisting of an ogee curve and a cresent. There are three square balusters on each step; the lower step and rail terminate in the form of a volute, the central baluster being iron. A half-rail with pilasters beneath ascends on the inside wall.

The most noteworthy woodwork in the house is in the parlor, (southwest room). Its mantel has fluted pilasters, two bands of reeded decoration and rope molding. The chairrail has a series of flutes and rosettes. Fluted pilasters beneath the chairrail flank the windows and doors. The cornice has a facia of flutes with holes beneath each flute and a series of flute carvings placed alternately, horizontal and vertical, which is similar to work in the Read House, New Castle, Delaware.

Each of the first-story rooms has pilasters beneath the chairrail. The roomside of the hall doors have raised panels whereas the hall side have recessed panels. Window and door trim is the same throughout the house, each is composed of three pieces, the molding between windows and doors differing as to the degree of the ogee curve. All doors have cast-butt hinges; some with closing mechanisms, and brass locks.

Form 10-300e (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#### #7 DESCRIPTION continued

The dining room door is distinguished by dentil molding on the mantel piece and a cornice whereas the drawing room has a variety of molding similar to the other rooms on the mantel piece and a fluted motif in chair rail and cornice.

Two walls in the small northeast room have beaded boards, one horizontal and one vertical. The other walls are plastered.

The second story has the same floor plan as the first, but the carved detail of the first story trim is lacking. Each of the rooms has a mantel, chairrail and cornice, (except the cornice in the northwest room). The master bedroom, above the drawing room has a glazed cabinet on the west side of the fire-place. A lavatory is located in the west closet between the two west rooms, and a full bath is located in the northeast room.

The staircase continues to the unfinished attic. The rafters, two feet on center, measure five by eight inches at their bases and taper toward the top where they are mortised, tenoned and pegged. The tie beams are half dove-tailed and nailed.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Poplar Hill Mansion is the only early dwelling of architectural significance to have survived the devastating fires of 1860 and 1886 in Salisbury.

Poplar Hill Mansion is reputed to have been built by Major Levin Handy in 1795. Handy was listed as a Captain in Revolutionary War records and as Lieutenant Colonel of the Salisbury militia in 1790. He owned the land for only four years before his death in 1799. In 1805 it was sold to Dr. John Huston who lived there until his death in 1827. Dr. Huston paid only \$300 for the land in 1805 which seems very little for such a large and important house, which at that time would have been nearly new. It seems more likely that Dr. Huston may have built the house after 1805 for the reason that the style of its woodwork resembles that of the period of the 1810 home of George Read in New Castle, Delaware.

Its purchase is being considered by the City of Salisbury with the Wicomico County government for use as a place for public meetings.

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9. HAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES			]	
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"Delmarva Living." The Sal	lisbur	y Times. (March 22, 1970 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET	).	
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Form 10-390a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#### Poplar Hill Mansion

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Dr. R. L. McFarlin, Salisbury, Maryland
Mr. George Strott, Salisbury, Maryland
Mr. David Grier, Salisbury, Maryland

Wicomico County Land Records. Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury, Maryland.

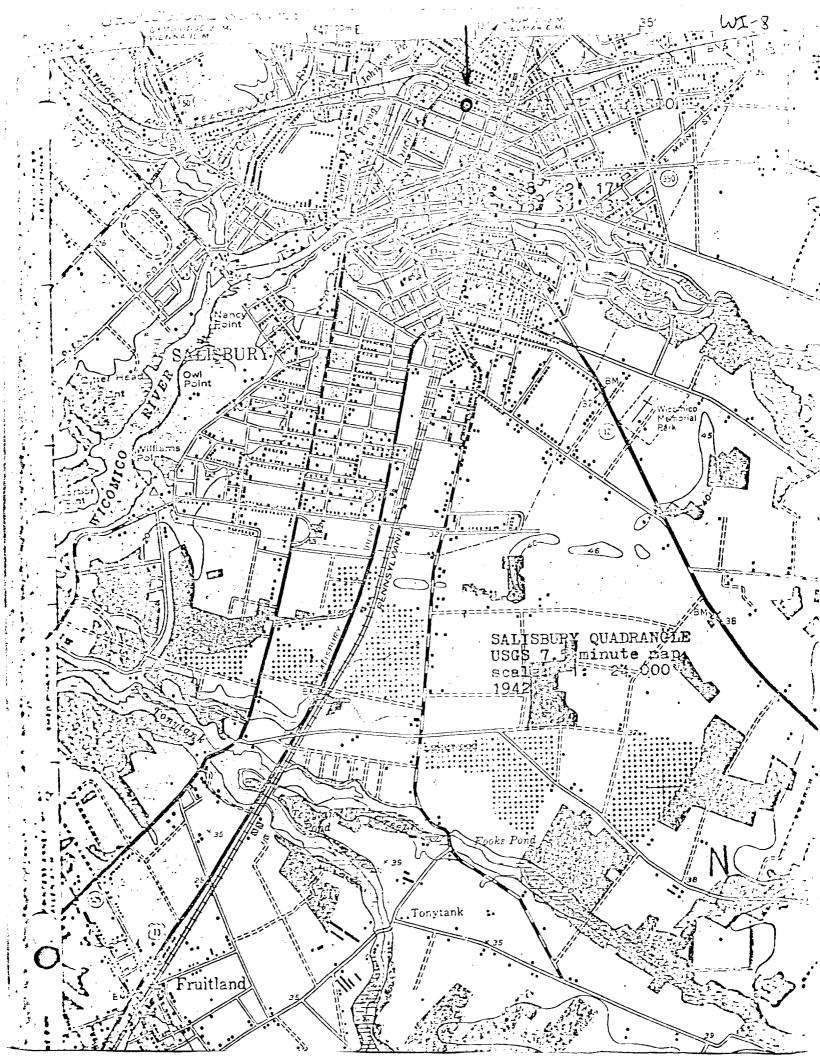
Wicomico County Probate Records. Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury, Maryland.

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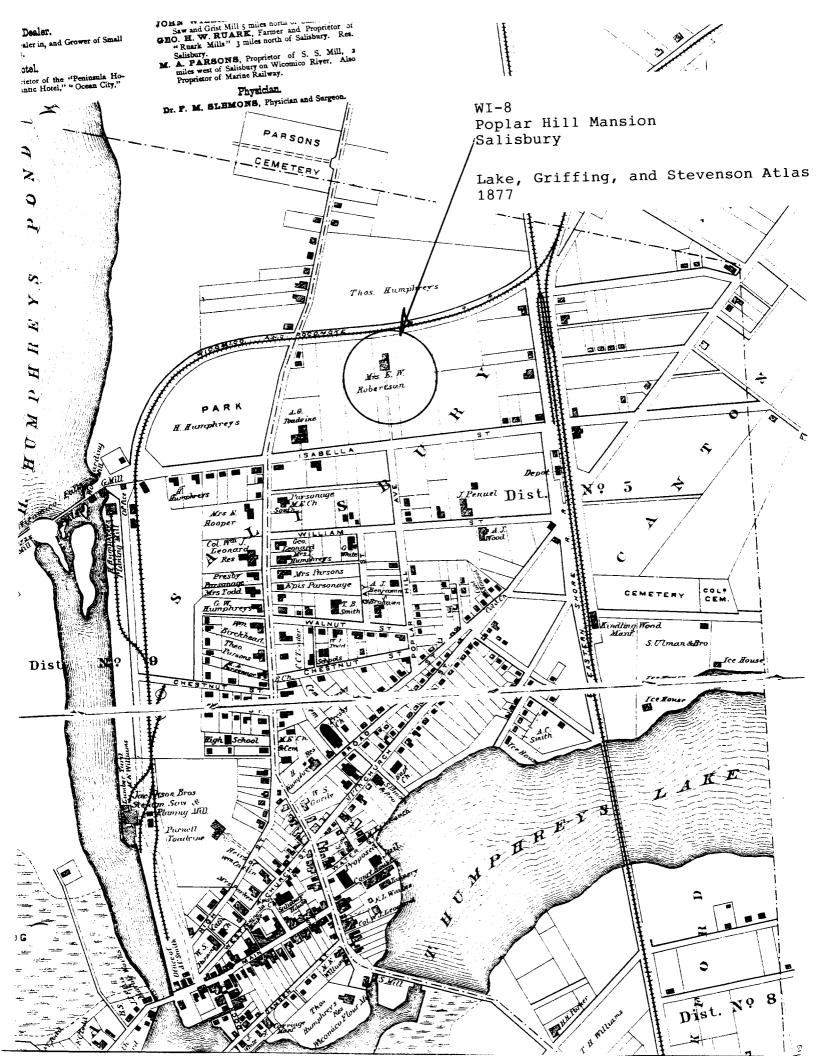


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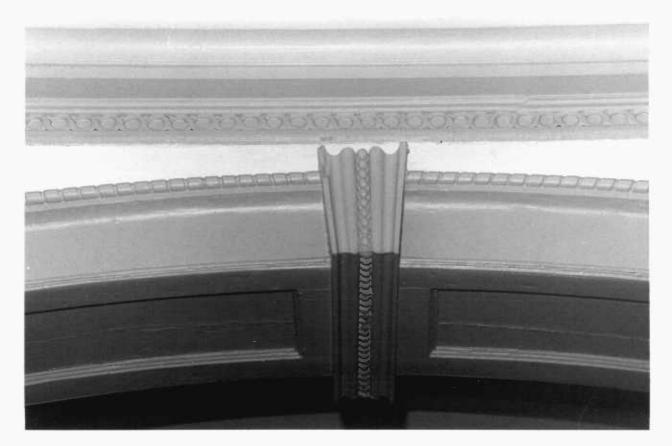


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111.3 POPLING HER PARASSOR Sprishure, Micaracca Co, 145. CIRILE - PARESA 4/73, PAIN TOWART PROTECTION NXC / W/ / HETIRIER Trust 90410





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